

Pen of 3 Competition Guidelines

Overview:

The Pen of 3 competition assesses groups of three bulls or heifers based on a combination of Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), physical assessment, and group consistency. The competition aims to showcase top cattle genetics, breeding programs, and the overall quality of animals, judged by expert panels with extensive international and national experience. Please note, the pen of 3 need to be penned or stalled together during the AngusEXPO and we will not allow animals from different pens to be entered into this competition. Judges may also be given the EBV profile for each lot prior to judging to make notes and speed up the process. Entries may be capped depending on numbers including the addition of a qualifying round from their pen.

Cattle assessments will take place in the sales arena in front of the crowd, which will mean each lot will need to move from their pen prior to Expo opening to the public on that day. This will be done via a series of laneways. For any led cattle this may be an advantage for effective relocation of the cattle.

Competition Format:

- **Time per group:** Each group of three is evaluated over **6 minutes** total.
 - **Individual animal assessment:** Each bull or heifer is assessed individually for **1 minutes**.
 - **Group assessment:** The trio is assessed as a whole for **1 minute**.
 - **EBV observations and final assessment:** 2 minute for the judges to focus on EPDs/EBVs and any final remarks.
- **Vendor Presentation:** During the first minute of the group's time, the vendor or their representative has an opportunity to introduce the group and their breeding program. This introduction, delivered from the rostrum, should last up to **2 minutes** and can include:
 - Introduction of the breeder
 - Description of breeding objectives and program
 - Key highlights of the cattle presented

Judging Criteria:

1. **EPD/EBV Profile (45 Points):**
 - Based on the animal's Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), which are predictive measures of their genetic potential.
 - Animals are to be assessed against an "Angus for every system" to showcase the strength of the breeds adaptability
2. **Phenotype and Physical Assessment (45 Points):**
 - This includes the physical structure, muscle development, overall conformation, and mobility of each animal.

3. Consistency Across the Group of 3 (30 Points):

- Evaluation of uniformity and consistency across the group in terms of size, physical traits, and characteristics.
- **Maximum points per team:** 300 points.

Age Categories (as of 1st May 2025 , classes to be confirmed once entries have closed):

- < 10 Months
- 10-12 months
- 12–14 months
- 14–16 months
- 16–18 months
- 18–20 months

Competition Flow:

- **Top Teams:** The two highest-scoring teams from each age category will advance to the final round, where an **Overall Championship Team** will be selected.

People's Choice Award:

- An **online voting system** via QR code will be available for the audience, including those watching via live stream, to select their favourite team.
 - One bull team and one heifer team will be awarded the People's Choice title.
- **Presentation:** The People's Choice award will be presented on **Sunday, 4th May**, during the evening session following the sale.

Judges:

The competition will be judged by a panel of highly experienced professionals with expertise in EPD profiles, phenotype assessment, and structural evaluation of cattle.

Award Presentation:

- The **People's Choice Award** will be presented in the main arena on the evening of **Sunday, 4th May**, following the cattle sale.

Cost: \$300 per team entry